



## **DIAMOND HEAD/KAPAHULU/ST. LOUIS HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 5**

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MARCH 9, 2006 ALA WAI GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Ah Mai. A quorum was present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Karen Ah Mai, Bert Narita, Wayne Gau, Sharon Dumas, Barbara Miller, Kenneth Chang, Rick Egged, George Waialeale, Bertha Nahoopii, Joe Otto, Linda Wong, Michelle Matson, Roxie Berlin, Don Persons, Jay Harden.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**GUESTS:** Gail Kakuda (Representative Calvin Say's Office), Honolulu Police Department, District 6, Waikiki -Capt. A. Arita, Sgt. K Schreiner, Sgt. R. Hamasaki, Officer J. Pistor, Officer T. Spacek, Honolulu Police Department, District 7, East Honolulu – Sgt. T. Walsh, Lt. A. Delima, Officer M. Tomei, Capt. D. Dela Cruz (HFD-Waikiki Station), Stan Fichtman (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Arthur Medeiros, Arthur Aiu (Board of Water Supply), Julia Allen, Jan Bappe, Daisy Murai, Eric La'a (Representative Scott Nishimoto's Office), B. Mikami, Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Carol Hoshiko (Kapiolani Community College), Blake Yokotake (7-Eleven), Scot Drown, J.P. Schmidt (Governor's Office), Mike Shiraki, Walea Constantinau (Mayor's Office), Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**REVIEW OF STANDING RULES:** Chair Ah Mai reviewed the Board's standing rules: be recognized before speaking, turns are limited to two minutes unless otherwise noted, no one shall speak again until all others have been accommodated, and no food or drink on the hardwood dance floor.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:**

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT** - Capt. Dela Cruz reported the following:

1. The Waikiki Station's engine and ladder companies responded to a combined 27 fire, 88 medical, and 1 search and rescue calls.
2. Fire Safety Tip: Brush fires cause great damage in our communities and they use resources that could be better utilized elsewhere. Please be responsible and dispose of all fires properly. Even small sources of fire, such as cigarettes and charcoal, can cause immense destruction. Please work together with you community to make it safer. Make and maintain a 30-foot wide firebreak by clearing the vegetation surrounding all structures. Report and remove hazards. Communicate with each other. Formulate plans for yourself, your family, and your neighborhood in case of emergencies.

Now is the time to prepare for brush fire season. If you are interested in creating a safe space around your home, street, or community, you may contact Denise Laitinen of Firewise at 808-281-3497 or go to [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org). There were no questions from the Board or guests.

#### **HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

**DISTRICT 6, WAIKIKI** - Officer Pistor reported the following:

1. Last month there were 50 illegal camping arrests made in Kapiolani Park and 21 at the Waikiki Shell
2. The written report distributed earlier, shows a decrease in statistics for February compared to January, in most categories this month compared to last month.

There were no questions from the Board or guests.

**DISTRICT 7, EAST HONOLULU** – Officer Tomei reported the following:

1. The written report distributed earlier, shows a decrease in most beats. Beat 758 – Lower Kapahulu, showed an increase in burglaries, thefts, and unauthorized entry into motor vehicles, by one case each in February compared to January.
2. The Narcotics/Vice Division's Complaint Detail received seven new complaints. A total of 17 prior complaints were closed. District 7's Crime Reduction Unit officers continue to assist in some investigations.
3. New complaints: three from the Kaimuki area, and one each from the McCully and Waialae area, and two each from the Kaimuki, Palolo and Hawaii Loa Ridge areas.
4. The written report also includes: "How You Can Help, 9 Pollution Tips."

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Officers worked with the moped shop on Kapahulu Avenue and resolved a problem with the shop parking mopeds in a parking stall.
2. Detective Walsh reported he will be working in the Palolo-Kaimuki area and commended his fellow officers for their work.

Capt. A. Arita, Sgt. K. Schreiner, Sgt. R. Hamasaki, Officer J. Pistor, Officer T. Spacek, Sgt. T. Walsh, Lt. A. Delima, and Officer M Tomei, were thanked for attending the meeting.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY (BWS)** – Arthur Aiu, from the Board of Water Supply, reported the following:

1. There was one water main break of a six-inch cast iron main last month at 3050 Kaunaoa Street; the main was installed in 1970.
2. Detect A Leak Week is March 5 – 11. A flyer was distributed. BWS encourages everyone to check for leaks, fix them and save on your water bill. BWS is offering 75 single-family homes free leak detection assistance. An entry form is on the flyer. Toilet tank leak detection tablets were also distributed.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Follow up will be done on a request for landscaping maintenance at the Saul Place and Bertram Street reservoirs. Aiu noted there is a shortage of personnel, and more are being hired.
2. Thanks were extended for repair of a leaky fire hydrant, which will eventually be replaced.

Aiu was thanked for attending the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 9, 2006 REGULAR MEETING** – Egged moved and Gau seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried, 13-0-1. Dumas abstained.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Narita reported for the month of February the Operating Account balance was \$1145.10, the Publicity Account balance was \$1705.00, and the Refreshment Account balance was \$120.00. The January report was not available at this time, and it was noted the only unusual expense was for copies of the compilation of Office of Information Practices opinions provided to each member. The estimated cost was \$5.00 per set.

**BOARD HOUSEKEEPING:**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Chair Ah Mai distributed copies of resolutions the Board passed on: a) requesting an immediate hold on all actions of the Hawaii Community Development Authority regarding Kakaako Makai development, and b) requesting the Department of Transportation to construct a Lunalilo Street overpass, underpass, or other traffic separation alternative. Copies are being sent to various City and State elected officials.
2. The Board has received an invitation from Waste Management, operator of the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill, offering the Board a tour. Interested members should see Chair Ah Mai for more information.

**NEWSLETTER** – Miller reported articles are being prepared and plans are to complete the draft by the end of the month.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** – Chair Ah Mai reported work is being done to schedule presentations on: a) Firewise, regarding brush fire protection, b) Waikiki Shell, regarding plans for a swap meet and status of the liquor license, c) Department of Transportation Services traffic plans for this area, and d) the carrying capacity of Waikiki.

**SUBDISTRICT 1 REPORTS:**

**SUBDISTRICT 1 – ST. LOUIS HEIGHTS** – Gau reported the following:

1. The last St. Louis Heights Community Association meeting was well-attended. There was a presentation on by HPD on the Neighborhood Security Watch program, and individual watches are being organized.
2. At Waahila Park, the pathway between the parking lot and pavilion will be repaired. Its condition was creating a hazard.
3. Chaminade University is holding a Celebrate Kaimuki event, on campus, March 25, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
4. Complaints have been received regarding construction work on the Hawaii Self Storage project blocking the sidewalk. The Department of Transportation Services is addressing this matter.

**SUBDISTRICT 2 – KAPAHULU** – Nahoopii reported the following:

1. The former KC Drive-In was purchased by Dr. Sharon Lawler, and the restaurant will be replaced by a 60-foot high medical office building, with two floors of parking and three for office space.
2. HPD has resolved problems with a moped shop on Kapahulu Avenue which was parking its mopeds in a parking stall, and creating a trash problem.

**SUBDISTRICT 3 – DIAMOND HEAD** – Board members reported as follows:

1. Berlin reported questions have been raised about the recent construction of concrete islands at several intersections along Kapahulu Avenue. Wong reported the work is for sidewalk bulbouts, which will include landscaping.
2. Nahoopii reported additional repair work is needed at Paki Hale, including replacement of carpeting on the second floor, and tiling on the first floor. However, no funding is available at this time as current funding was for work on doors and the mold problem.
3. Wong reported runoff water has been diverted from homes on Noela Street onto Pualei Circle, creating problems.

**BOARD HOUSEKEEPING, CONTINUED:**

**OAHU METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (OMPO)** – Otto reported at the last OMPO Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, one of the topics of discussion was on the mass transit system for Honolulu, including heavy and light rail, and a monorail; ferry system, bike paths and pedestrian walkways, bus system improvements.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. It was noted Sydney, Australia has an integrated ferry, bus and train system, and suggested that something like this be done in Honolulu.
2. The increase in the General Excise Tax, City, State, and federal funds will be used to fund the development of the mass transit system. This is the time to suggest alternatives to the existing proposals.
3. Development of a mass transit system was opposed as no one will ride it; instead HOT lanes (toll roads) or double decking highways should be done. Ridership projections for the mass transit system are being made.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU** – Stan Fichtman, from Councilmember Djou's Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. Bill 72, regarding a curbside recycling program was signed into law by the Mayor. The law requires the City to collect green waste by July 1, 2007, and two of the following: glass, newspapers, plastic containers, or food waste, by July 1, 2008.
2. The Administration has plans to hire a consultant to study what to do about the Waikiki Natatorium.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The City does make special pickups of toxic and hazardous waste from households.
2. Follow up will be done on Councilmember Djou personally attending the Board's meeting.

Fichtman was thanked for attending the meeting.

**MAYOR'S OFFICE** – Chair Ah Mai summarized the previously mentioned matters relating to the City: a) construction of sidewalk bulbouts on Kapahulu Avenue, b) update on work at Paki Hale and need for additional funding for work on replacement of carpets and tiling, c) diversion of water on Noela Drive causing problems on Pualei Circle. Additional requests for follow up included: a) funding for watermain at triangle at end of Diamond Head Road, near Dillingham Fountain, b) cost sharing with the State on work at the Waikiki Natatorium, as it still belongs to the State, c) how is it determined which streets are resurfaced and if the City uses scanning equipment as do other cities, d) recent rains have caused pot holes on Kapahlulu Avenue and crews have been seen making repairs.

Constantinau reported the following:

1. Regarding a previous question about installing a crosswalk at the community gardens, it has been determined that the pathway is not used as a driveway, and a crosswalk can be installed. No timetable was available at this time.
2. Follow up will be done on the relocation of TheBus stop for the No. 22 and 58 to fronting Diamond Head Market.
3. Regarding requests for adjustments in the street cleaning schedules, the Department of Facility Maintenance reported "...Although our sweeping frequency and time of day may not be desirable for all, we feel that the present program represents a good balance and should be continued as presently performed."
4. Regarding a concern about the Board not receiving correspondence from the Department of Transportation Services, in a timely manner, Chair Ah Mai reported she is looking into the matter further with the Neighborhood Commission Office. Additional discussion followed on need for the Board to receive advance notice of the start of construction projects.

5. It was noted the triathlon route has been changed, moving it out of this area.

Constantineau was thanked for attending the meeting.

**COUNCILMEMBER ANN KOBAYASHI** – Councilmember Kobayashi reported the following:

1. The construction of the sidewalk bulbouts is an example of the previous Administration putting in projects like this the community opposed, and new parks; while leaving future administrations to deal with debt service and ongoing maintenance costs. The contract for this project was done under the previous Administration and could not be cancelled by the current Administration.
2. The Council's Budget Committee is working on the budget which was received from the Administration on March 1. Review hearings are in progress.
3. There is \$5 million in the budget to hire a consultant to study the Waikiki Natatorium. This study is different from a project by the previous Administration to repair the collapsing walls of the pool.
4. Construction of traffic signal lights at Date Street and Kapahulu Avenue, was delayed due to a shortage of steel for the project.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. It was suggested interested persons call the Mayor with complaints about projects developed by the previous Administration.
2. Concern was expressed about whether or not the use of legal ads published in the newspaper is adequate notice to the community about new parking restrictions. It was suggested that this matter be brought to the attention of the new director of the Department of Transportation Services.
3. The \$5 million for the Waikiki Natatorium study cannot be used for currently needed repairs, such as to restroom roofs.
4. It was suggested that the public restroom next to the Waikiki Police Station be open at night as there is a lack of other public restrooms. Councilmember Kobayashi noted that lack of security prevents restrooms from being open for longer hours.

Councilmember Kobayashi was thanked for attending the meeting.

Matson arrived during the Elected Officials' reports.

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE** – J.P. Schmidt, representing the Governor's Office, was available for questions.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Follow up will be done on a request for repairs of park restrooms in the Makaha area.
2. The Governor can only repeal the gas cap law if specific conditions exist, and those conditions do not exist at this time. Follow up will be done.

Schmidt was thanked for attending the meeting.

**REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN SAY** – A written report was received.

**REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO** - A written report was received.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES: HANDLING OF REQUESTS** – Previously discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**KAPIOLANI COMMUNITY COLLEGE (KCC) UPDATE** – Carol Hoshiko, KCC, Dean of Business, Hospitality and Community Programs, reported the following:

1. Work is being done on funding the new Culinary Institute of the Pacific. State, federal and private funding is being sought.
2. Work is being done on securing use of land next to Leahi Hospital for use by KCC for its long range master planning.
3. KCC is in its accreditation process. Public input is welcome.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The Culinary Institute of the Pacific will be built on the former site of the Cannon Club. If all goes as planned it could open in 2009 or 2010.
2. Hoshiko acknowledged both students and the community want more on campus parking, the students to enable them to attend classes, and the community for relief from impacts of students parking in the surrounding communities. The Culinary Institute of the Pacific project will include parking, which could be used for by other parts of KCC.
3. Use of other lands across on the base of Diamond Head Crater is part of the long-range master plan.

Hoshiko was thanked for attending the meeting.

**REAL PROPERTY TAXES: STATUS REPORT:** Councilmember Kobayashi reported the following:

1. Bill 6, relating to options for households with an income of less than \$50,000 to pay either the tax or four percent of the household income, has passed, and revisions to exempt income from Social Security and to lower the four percent to three percent, are being considered.
2. Freezing taxes like California has done, created problems.
3. One of the relief bills passed was one to double the homeowners exemption from \$40,000 to \$80,000 for persons under age 60, and the exemption for persons over age 70 remains unchanged.
4. Bill 12 became law without the Mayor's signing it, and requires the City to collect taxes to match expenses.
5. The City's debt service is now at \$3 billion.
6. Bill 1, regarding a one-time tax credit, takes effect in 2007, when the new assessments are set. Bills 6 and 12 take effect this year.

The current tax rate is \$3.75 per \$1,000 of valuation.

Bill 12 was widely supported.

The Administration's budget includes an Operating Budget of \$1.4 billion and a Capital Improvements Budget of \$600 million.

Councilmember Kobayashi was thanked for the presentation.

**7-ELEVEN REQUEST FOR LIQUOR LICENSE AT KAPAHULU AVENUE AND CASTLE STREET** – Blake Yokotake, from 7-Eleven, reported they are opening a new store at the former Unocal station. Plans are to open in May or June, operate 24-hours day, with gasoline sales.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The liquor license is for packaged sales, the hearing before the Liquor Commission is scheduled for April 13. This type of liquor license does not have restrictions, like a license for bars does, with regard to proximity to schools.
2. This is their only store in Kapahulu, the lease for the one at the Tesoro station expired.
3. This location is intended to serve the local community.
4. There will be two gasoline pump islands, the existing tanks will be used.
5. Follow up will be done on litter problems that existed at the Tesoro location.
6. Store employees are trained on dealing with loitering problems, including calling police if necessary.
7. The existing building will be replaced with a one-story, building, with landscaping. A blueprint of the building's front view was available for interested persons to review.
8. Liquor sales will be packaged sales only, between 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight.
9. Other businesses of this type include the Fast Stop at the Arco station.
10. All 7-Eleven locations except one in Waimanalo and one in Kailua near Kailua High School, have liquor licenses.

**Egged moved and Waialeale seconded that the Board supports the application by 7-Eleven for a liquor license.** Discussion, pro and con followed. **Egged withdrew the motion, Waialeale withdrew the second.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu  
Neighborhood Assistant